

CERCOSPORA LEAF SPOT OF WILLOW

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Cercospora salicina Ell. & Ever., causal agent of leaf spot of willow (*Salix* sp.) was first described from Louisiana in 1887 (2). The disease has also been reported from Argentina to Manitoba, Canada (1), as well as from other parts of the world. Common host species found in Florida include *S. babylonica* L., *S. discolor* Muhl., and *S. nigra* L. This disease is found in Florida wherever willows are grown and is destructive under conditions favorable for disease development.

SYMPTOMS. Lesions caused by *S. salicina* are 0.5 - 5 mm in diameter and irregular in outline, with brown centers and purple margins (Fig. 1). As the disease progresses and the lesions become more numerous, the leaves turn yellow and fall from the plant, with dieback of the branches resulting at times (Fig. 2).

CONTROL. Applications of fungicides such as maneb or Daconil will control this disease. Control measures should be initiated when leaf spots first appear.

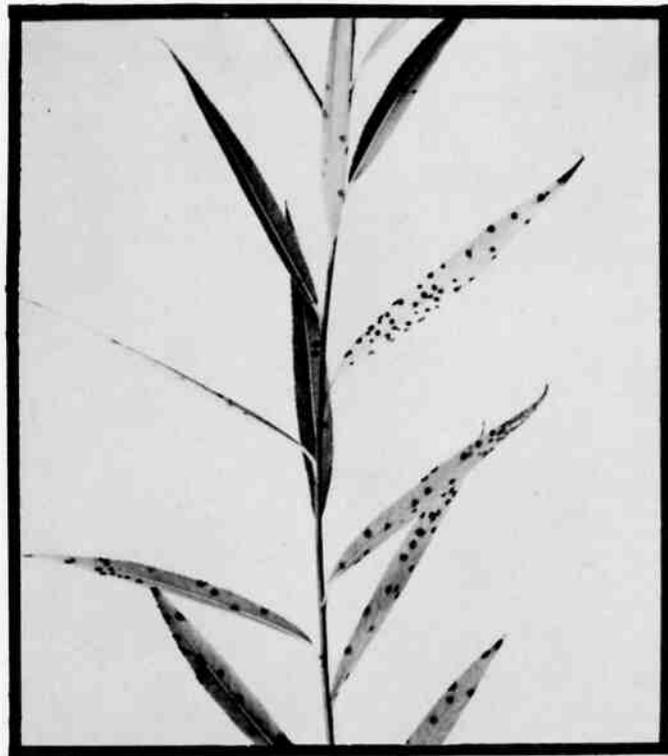


Fig. 1. Willow leaves showing symptoms of *Cercospora* leaf spot.



Fig. 2. Willow branch showing defoliation and dieback due to *Cercospora* attack.

Literature Cited

1. Chupp, C. 1953. A monograph of the fungus genus *Cercospora*. Ithaca, N. Y. p. 508.
2. Ellis, J. B. and B. M. Everhart. 1887. Additions to *Cercospora*, *Gloeosporium*, and *Cylindrosporium*. *J. Mycol.* 3:19.